

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Herein disclosed is an information processing apparatus for processing a plurality of entry information elements transmitted from at least one terminal, comprising: period setting means for setting an output operation period after specifying an output start time and an output end time collectively defining the output operation period; time keeping means for keeping time including the output start time specified by the period setting means and the output end time specified by the period setting means; information receiving means for receiving the entry information elements transmitted from the terminal; information encrypting means for encrypting the entry information elements received from the information receiving means before producing encrypted entry information elements; information storing means for storing the encrypted entry information elements produced by the information encrypting means; and information decrypting means for decrypting the encrypted entry information elements stored in the information storing means during the output operation period starting from the output start time kept by the time keeping means until the output end time kept by the time keeping means wherein the output operation period is kept secret.